DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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WAR OR PEACE?

Germans Themselves Must Choose

The German people must make their choice between the path of peace and the path of war, stated the resolution unanimously adopted by the 4 th Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party which ended in Berlin on April 6 th.

The resolution stated in part:

The German people are faced with an unavoidable decision. They must choose between subservience to the USA, which means war, or the independence of Germany, which means peace.

Two camps confront each other in Germany today, the camp of the peace forces and the camp of the war forces.

1. The peace forces state: Germany needs immediately a peace treaty for a united, peaceable, democratic and independent Germany.

The war forces state: Germany needs no peace treaty, but rather the Bonn and Paris War Treaties, which partition Germany and sentence West Germany to destruction through its conversion into a war base.

2. The peace forces state: Germany must be freed immediately from foreign occupation.

The war forces state: West Germany should remain occupied by American, British and French troops until the next century.

3. The peace forces want the speedy creation of a provisional all-German government, which prepares and carries out free democratic elections.

The war forces want undemocratic elections under the dictatorship of the occupation powers.

4. The peace forces want to free West Germany too from reparations payments, and to reduce occupation costs to five percent of the budget, as long as occupation forces remain.

The war forces want the continuation of reparations, and the imposition of still higher occupation costs on the West German population.

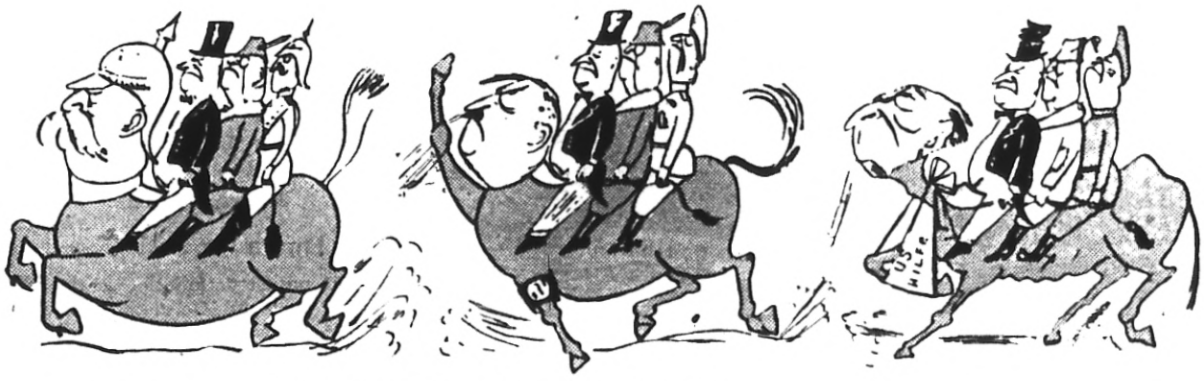
5. The peace forces want peaceful cooperation of the whole of Europe, and the uniting of all European states in collective security.

The war forces set the six EDC states against the other 26 states of Europe, and draw an explosive line through Germany, a line which partitions Europe.

The German people must make their choice between these two courses, the path of peace or the path of war . . .

* * *

Main feature of the Party Congress, which was attended by 2300 delegates and many hundreds of guests from West Germany, was the report delivered by Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party. In this report Walter Ulbricht dealt at length with the problems and perspectives in Germany today. A full summary of this important speech begins on page 58 of this specially enlarged issue of GERMAN REPORT.



The Horse May Change — The Riders are the Same (Drawing by Elizabeth Shaw)

BAN H-BOMB — East German Call

The Parliaments of both East and West Germany should join in a declaration calling for the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction such as the hydrogen bomb, the Presidium of the East German People's Chamber proposed on April 6th.

"No country would be more imperilled than Germany in a war with atomic weapons" the East German representatives stated in their telegram to the West German Parliament. "We therefore propose that the members of the German Federal Parliament should, together with the members of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic, pass a resolution calling for the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and their experimental use".

Anti-Wehrmacht Vote in W. Germany

In the coming months all West Germans will be asked to give their votes in a plebiscite for or against the EDC treaty and the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht.

Plans for the plebiscite were drawn up on March 27th at a meeting in Dusseldorf attended by 150 men and women from all parts of West Germany.

The plebiscite appeal was signed by persons from all walks of life, including active trade unionists and officials of the Social Democratic Party. The legality of the plebiscite is stressed by the initiators, who quote article 20 of the West German Constitution:

"All state authority emanates from the people. It shall be exercised by the people in elections and plebiscites . . ." and also Article 5:

"The rights of freedom of expression, of dissemination of opinion . . . are inviolable."

Bidault: You must acquit the accused. He is the best guarantee for European Security

(From "Rominia Libera", Bucharest)

What German Militarists Think of EDC

"From the very start we have declared that we only support the European Army because it is better than nothing, and because at the beginning it did not look as though we should be able to get any more for the time being."

"Tagesspiegel", West Berlin, March 14th 1954

World Peace Council to Meet in Berlin

The World Peace Council will meet in special session in Berlin at the end of May. Announcing this decision, the Bureau of the World Peace Council stated:

"World public opinion can force the rejection of EDC in France and Italy, and thus ensure renewed negotiations in Berlin to secure a peaceful solution of the German problem. World public opinion can secure the prohibition of atomic weapons."

Ghetto Murderers Acquitted

Twenty nazi policemen who admitted shooting hundreds of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 were acquitted by Dortmund Court, West Germany, on March 31st.

The court decision said that the men, all of them former members of the nazi "Police Guard Battalion 61" would be freed "because they could not realise at the time that they were committing any offence".

Most of the murderers are again employed in West German police formations. One of them is instructor in the Central Police School in Bonn.

Evidence was given that the accused had held a private competition to see who could shoot the most of the inhabitants of the ghetto, and that they kept score by making ticks on a list which hung on the door of the police canteen. One of the accused attempted to justify himself by saying that he had not shot Jews but "only" Poles.

Hurra for Militarism!

The unjust defamation of the military past in Germany has now come to an end, Bavarian Prime Minister Hans Ehard stated on April 3rd, addressing the West German Soldiers' Association in Munich.

TODAY & TOMORROW IN GERMANY

Report to the 4th Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party in Berlin

Delivered by Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, and First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, on March 30th 1954

The Berlin Conference of the four foreign ministers clarified the German question, but did not settle it. The representatives of the US and Great Britain were exclusively concerned about their military pacts. They insisted on the rearmament of West Germany and on the retention of foreign occupation forces, and refused to discuss the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

It is absolutely clear that the Soviet Union cannot agree to German remilitarisation. Foreign Minister Molotov declared on March 5th:

"The solution of the German question now depends first and foremost upon whether German militarism is revived or not."

The West German government replied to Molotov's proposals for a peace treaty and withdrawal of the occupation troops by demanding that foreign occupation troops remain in Germany and that the EDC, a military pact between a small number of West European states with the US in command, be put into practice.

"Peaceful" Conquest

Before the West German elections in 1953 the Bonn government parties had tried to persuade the people of West Germany that rearmament, revival of German militarism and the EDC were the means by which the West German warmongers would be able, in a "peaceful"manner, to achieve their aims against the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. But the Berlin Conference made it clear to the West German people that the West German militaristic policy will actually lead to war, if this is not prevented by the working class and all peace-loving people.

The Soviet Union will never make concessions to German imperialism. The only concessions possible are those which will further the cause of peace.

The Adenauer government must either change its policy and enter into negotiations with the German Democratic Republic, or stand exposed as a government which has chosen the path to war. It will sign its own death warrant through a policy of partition, militarism and betrayal of German national interests, and no American occupation force will be able to protect it from the wrath of the people.

Free Elections

Molotov maintained that truly free elections, elections organized by the German people themselves, must be carried out. Free elections can, in our opinion, only be elections which are not organized by the occupation powers, and which are carried out free of all pressure from the occupation troops, free from the pressure of the Bonn and Paris war treaties and the militarists in the West German government and economic life.

The American, British and West German monopolists and bankers want to make use of all their economic and political power, including the power of the occupation forces, to push through elections acceptable to the Americans. They rely on turning against the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic the dissatisfaction of the people with the after-effects of the Hitlerite war. They intend to drag all Germany into the American military pact system after such elections.

In contrast to this, the government of the German Democratic Republic, proposed in its memorandum elections free of interference from the occupation forces and the West German militarists. Because of the division of Germany into two states, all-German elections can only be prepared through all-German discussions and the setting-up of an all-German provisional government, which has the task of bringing both parts of Germany closer together and creating the pre-requisites for truly free and democratic elections.

According to the Bonn government notion of "democracy", after the reunification of Germany the basic industries of all Germany are to be under the control of the Montan Union, a union of German, French and other monopolists and bankers organized by American finance capital, without regard for the democratic government bodies elected by the German people.

These gentlemen think of a reunified Germany as a country whose Parliament merely discusses while actual policy is made by the militarists and other reactionaries firmly established in the Bonn government machine.

Unity

It is easy to find the way to a peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany, but a reunification of Germany under the control of America and the West German monopolists and militarists is impossible.

A new situation was reached at the Berlin Conference. It is now clear that:

the reunification of Germany depends above all on the Germans themselves;

a reunification is possible only through an understanding between representatives of both parts of Germany;

the reunification is only possible after the annulment of the EDC and Bonn war treaties.

The government of the German Democratic Republic has for its part done everything possible to prepare the way for reunification.

Delegations from West Germany

Enemies of peace and democracy have spread a net of lies to prevent workers, peasants and intelligentsia from both parts of Germany from coming together. In order to destroy this net of lies, we are inviting workers', peasants' and artists' delegations to visit the German Democratic Republic, to see for themselves what our working people have achieved.

Let all peace-loving people in West Germany compare the way of living of the working people in the German Democratic Republic with that in West Germany. Let them compare the rights of the workers in the German Democratic Republic with the new factory legislation in West Germany. Let them study and compare the social insurance scheme, the holiday facilities, the cultural institutions for the workers and the educational systems of both parts of Germany. We have nothing to fear from such a comparison.

Sovereignty for East Germany

The Soviet government has granted the German Democratic Republic complete freedom of action in dealing with home and foreign affairs, including relations with West Germany. The government of the German Democratic Republic solemnly declares that it will fulfil the obligations arising for the German Democratic Republic from the Potsdam Agreement regarding the development of Germany as a democratic and peace-loving state, as well as the obligations connected with the temporary presence of Soviet troops on the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

The German Democratic Republic now has full freedom of action in home and foreign affairs; and no pre-war, war or post-war debts or reparations payments such as the Bonn state has to pay.

When the enemies of German reunification point out that there are Soviet troops in the German Democratic Republic, we answer that Molotov proposed, at the Berlin Conference, the withdrawal of all occupation troops within six months. Furthermore, the Soviet occupation troops are here for the purpose of guarding peace, while occupation troops in West Germany have the character of intervention troops.

As a result of the Soviet Declaration, there are now a number of questions which western countries will have to settle through direct negotiations with the government of the German Democratic Republic.

For example, military missions of various countries formed part of the former Control Commission. These will no longer be able to carry on their activities in the German Democratic Republic according to the former Statute, since their relations to the German Democratic Republic will no longer be determined by the former Allied Control Commission representatives, but by the government of the German Democratic Republic itself.

The government of the German Democratic Republic is perfectly willing to enter into normal diplomatic, consular and trade relations with all countries.

(In his summing-up speech on April 4th, Walter Ulbricht added:

Certain circles in the West have expressed their dissatisfaction that we are of the opinion that some military mission representatives who are accredited to the Allied Control Commission should not travel freely in the German Democratic Republic pending the establishment of normal diplomatic relations with their countries. Some representatives of foreign countries have expressed the opinion that the German Democratic Republic cannot interfere in the affairs of western military organisations. But these gentlemen must understand that the Germans are in control on German soil.)

Trade Relations with West

As a result of its policy of peace and friendship towards all peoples, the German Democratic Republic has the confidence of the mightiest nations of the world, the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic, and of the People's Democracies.

With regard to relations with the capitalist countries, trade relations with them have been greatly extended during the last few years. In some countries, for instance Finland and Egypt, the German Democratic Republic has official trade commissions, which contribute considerably to improved trade relations and mutual understanding. These trade relations must be further extended.

The German Democratic Republic also has representatives in a number of international organisations which are concerned with improving international economic relations.

We attach special importance to good relations between the French people, the German people and the peoples of the Soviet Union, which can provide a sure basis for peaceful cooperation between the peoples of Europe. Agreement between these peoples would isolate the West German militarists, despite their American support, and make it easier for the democratic forces to defeat them.

The government of the German Democratic Republic also desires that there should be no tension in relations between the British and the German people. We would welcome an extension of economic and cultural relations with all European peoples.

Although the representatives of the USA were not yet prepared to recognise the German Democratic Republic at the Berlin Conference, they were forced into a half recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. We are convinced that the western powers will not take so long to recognise the German Democratic Republic as they did to recognise the Soviet Union.

Inner-German Trade

The volume of foreign trade has doubled since 1950, a circumstance which has made itself felt in the daily life of every single citizen in the German Democratic Republic.

In the coming period we must reestablish former trade connections and extend our trade with the People's Democracies. We have repeatedly expressed our readiness to increase and simplify inner German trade relations (trade between East and West Germany, ed.) and our government has proposed for 1945 a general exchange of goods to the value of a thousand million marks, but this proposal has been rejected by the Bonn government, to the detriment of the West German workers and of many West German business people.

(In his summing-up speech on April 4th, Walter Ulbricht said:

Since 1945 a considerable trade has developed between the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. One should not, however, overlook the fact that the Soviet Union has made deliveries to us of goods which she could sometimes ill spare. For example, we requested in our recent trade talks with the Soviet Union deliveries of food stuffs, fodder and raw materials in excess of the amounts agreed upon in the trade agreement. We know that in [illegible] of the Soviet Union difficulties are experienced in getting enough fodder. Despite this, the Soviet Union has put further amounts of fodder at our disposal.

I mention this in order to emphasise the importance of economising with every ounce of material we have. We can only thank the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies by exercising the strictest economy and by doing our utmost to make the best use of home reserves and to improve the quality of our production.)

Economic Basis

In the German Democratic Republic the wealth of the country, its economic strength and natural resources, belong to the people, so that economic development and the raising of the standard of living are entirely in the hands of our working people.

At the 2nd Party Conference of our Party in 1952 it was clearly shown that the nationally owned sector forms the economic basis of the new order, that is, in industry the nationally owned factories and in agriculture the nationally owned estates, tractor stations and agricultural production cooperatives.

An analysis of the ownership of industry, agriculture and trade (see box on this page) shows that the workers' and peasants' state is solidly based on a nationally owned and cooperative economy. The people's state power is in control of all the important means of production in the German Democratic Republic.

In the German Democratic Republic the interests of the workers, intelligentsia and peasants coincide with the historical task of the state power to serve progress. All working people devote their strength to the great work of reconstruction, the creation of the basis of socialism and the achievement of a full and happy life, which will have a new meaning and content for our people.

The state power in the German Democratic Republic rests on the bloc of the anti-fascist, democratic parties. Through the destruction of the power of the monopolists and big landowners the working class created the basis for cooperation with the Democratic Peasants' Party and the middle class democratic parties in the joint task of building a united, peace-loving and democratic Germany.

Democratic basis of government

Ten of the twenty ministers in the government of the German Democratic Republic come from the working class, one is a peasant and one is an artisan. There is not a single worker or peasant in the Bonn government.

The majority of representatives to our People's Chamber come from the ranks of the working class and there is not a single representative of big business. But in the Bonn government there are 85 big business men, 51 landowners and 85 directors of big business firms.

In the district councils of the German Democratic Republic there are 2,337 workers and land workers, 205 small and middle peasants, 316 office employees and 615 others (officials, artisans etc.)

The young state power of the workers and peasants gave proof of its strength last year, when fascist provocateurs organised their putsch.

WHO OWNS EAST GERMANY?

Figures from Ulbricht Report

INDUSTRY

	1950	1953
Socialist factories (nationally owned and cooperative	77.6%	85.5%
Privately owned factories	22.4%	14.5%

AGRICULTURE

Nationally owned estates	4%
Agricultural production cooperatives	12%
Land provisionally in State custodianship	14%
Small peasants (1 — 12 acres)	14%
Middle peasants (12 — 50 acres)	46%
Large peasants (50 — 250 acres)	10%

RETAIL TRADE

(Total turnover = 100%)

Nationally owned retail trade (HO)	39%
Shops run by nationally owned industries	0.1%
Consumers' cooperatives	26.8%
Other socialist trading organisations	3.1%
Private retail trade	31%

I should like to answer questions of West German workers about the events of June 17th quite simply:

The American occupation authorities and the aggressive forces in Bonn had for a long time openly proclaimed their aim to overthrow the German Democratic Republic. After the proclamation of the New Course (on June 9th 1953, ed.) they made every effort to prevent an improvement in the living standard of the working people and the strengthening of the democratic order.

The inspirers of the putsch in the German Democratic Republic were fascists who had formerly been active in Hitlerite organisations, agents of the East Bureau of the Social Democratic Party and agents of the West German "Ministry for All-German Affairs" who had wormed their way into the middle class parties in the German Democratic Republic.

Certain aggressive circles in the USA were eager to see an increase of international tension, and for this reason they were willing to throw into action some of their reserves in the German Democratic Republic and to sacrifice them in a putsch of this kind.

During the Berlin Conference aggressive forces in West Berlin tried to engineer another putsch.

There is no fruitful ground in the German Democratic Republic for a repetition of the events of June 17th.

In view of the aggressive militaristic policy of the American and British occupation authorities in West Germany and of the Bonn government and War Ministry, it is necessary to take comprehensive measures to protect the German Democratic Republic and the achievements of her working people.

Through better work on the part of the state security organs and watchfulness on the part of the public, it has been possible to expose many of the agents of West German espionage organisations.

If the West German mercenary army materialises, we shall of course be compelled to put the question of protecting the German Democratic Republic before the working class and peasantry.

East Germany to Vote

The most important task in achieving reunification of a democratic and peace-loving Germany is the strengthening of the democratic order in the German Democratic Republic, the centre of the forces of peace and democracy for all Germany.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany therefore puts forward the following proposal:

The 4th Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party proposes to the parties of the anti-fascist democratic bloc and to the National Front of Democratic Germany that elections to the People's Chamber shall be held in autumn 1954.

We are in favour of elections without pressure from monopoly capitalism, war mongers, occupation statute, bribing of parties and corruption of candidates.

The purpose of the elections is to get the views of the people in secret ballot on the question: Are you in favour of a peace treaty, for a united, peace-loving, democratic Germany and the withdrawal of occupation troops? Are you against the transformation of West Germany into a USA military base with the help of the Bonn and Paris war treaties, which mean war?

During the election campaign the People's Chamber representatives will report on the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan, the development and strengthening of democracy and the rise in the standard of living of the working people in the German Democratic Republic.

Five Year Plan

The success of the Five Year Plan made possible the solution of one of the most important tasks set by the 3rd Party Congress (1950), the lessening of the lopsidedness in the economy of the German Democratic Republic which resulted from the partitioning of Germany.

Between 1951 and 1953 a new basis in the metallurgical industry was built up which led to a considerable expansion in engineering, greater capacity in heavy industry and in shipbuilding, production of modern agricultural machinery and the production of certain important chemical products.

Industrial production in the years 1951—1953 was 7% higher than the target set in the Five Year Plan. According to the Plan, production in 1953 should have been 61.6% above the 1950 production; it was actually 74.8% higher.

In agriculture the production of cereals and leguminous crops and the stock of horses, sheep, pigs and poultry has this year reached the level originally set for 1955. But some projects have not been fulfilled owing to shortages of phosphates and animal fodder.

Living standards

The following figures illustrate successes in raising the living standard of the working people:

a. Retail trade turnover was already higher in 1953 than was planned for 1955 (27.4 thousand million marks in 1953 as against a planned 27 thousand million marks planned for 1955)

b. The plan foresaw an all-round reduction in retail prices of 28% by 1955; this was already reached in 1953.

c. Real wages were 9% higher in 1953 than had been planned for 1955.

The working people had to fight against enormous difficulties to achieve these successes.

In 1946 engineering production was only 29% of the 1936 production, and in shipbuilding no big jobs were undertaken in the first years after the war.

On the basis of a correct political analysis of the situation, the Socialist Unity Party decided at this time to concentrate all efforts on the difficult economic-political task of setting up smelting, heavy engineering and ship-building industries.

Since then the situation has completely changed. Now, at the end of the third year of the Five Year Plan, we can state with pride that iron ore production has risen 239% over the 1950 figure; during this period such giant enterprises as the "J. W. Stalin" Smelting Combine and the steel works in Brandenburg, Hennigsdorf, Riesa, Doehlen etc, have been built. Despite tremendous difficulties, production in our metallurgical industries has doubled since 1950.

Our enemies argue in their propaganda campaigns that the rapid development of heavy industry is a mistake. Our answer to this is:

1. Rapid development of heavy industry has been our strongest weapon against the partitioners of Germany, who wanted to weaken the German Democratic Republic by an economic blockade and thus bring her under the heel of British and American monopoly.

2. The building up of a smelting and heavy engineering industry was the essential first step which enabled us to enter on the New Course.

3. Our success in carrying out the Five Year Plan and the assistance of the (East European) Council for Mutual Aid makes it possible for us to slow down the tempo of development in the smelting and heavy engineering industries.

Activist movement

A new consciousness of their personal responsibility for the development of our workers' and peasants' economy inspires our workers and technicians. They are also conscious of the fact that the fight to master difficult economic and technical processes is bound up with a high level of political understanding.

Our activists and initiators not only achieve wonders in their technical work; they are also foremost in leading our state and our society.

There are no more active members of our People's Chamber and its committees than the activists and initiators, for example, Adolf Hennicke, Louise Ermisch and Martin Raabe. These people understand the real needs of the people and set themselves the task of fulfilling them without needless talk. We are proud that most of them are members of our Party.

Thousands of our best activists are today not only masters in their branch of work; they are also learning successfully to fulfil the tasks of government.

We must put our faith in these new men and women and encourage more and more of them to take an active part in government work in the district and town councils of our Republic.

Economic Policy

The New Course implies a lessening in the tempo of development in certain sections of engineering and heavy industry which we were compelled to develop as a result of the partitioning of Germany. This slowing down sets free considerable means whereby the food and confectionery, textiles and other light industries, home building, and above all agriculture, can be greatly extended, and more help given to artisans and small private industries.

Economy in production and government are important aspects of the task of improving living standards.

Progress in our economy must lead to a systematic improvement in the living standards of the working people through price and tax reductions, wage increases and far-reaching measures in the social and cultural fields.

What are our difficulties? Our main difficulties arise out of the partitioning of Germany, insufficient quantities and poor quality of goods, and faults in foreign trade policy, which does not yet pay enough attention to the actual needs of customers.

Further difficulties are due to bureaucratic behaviour on the part of some government officials and to the influence of capitalistically minded elements and saboteurs.

These difficulties can only be overcome by a more scientific and more conscientious attitude to their work on the part of leading government officials, by more criticism from below and by a greater initiative on the part of the workers.

Building

One of the tasks of the Five Year Plan was the rebuilding of our ruined cities. Berlin was to have the characteristic appearance worthy of the German capital. It was proposed to rebuild the area from the Stalin Allee to the Brandenburger Tor, and the beautiful old buildings in the centre of the city were to be restored. The reconstruction of the big cities was to incorporate the idea of the new social order and to serve the personal and cultural needs of the people.

Today every German can see that the projects set down in the Five Year Plan have been more than fulfilled. The Stalin Allee has become a symbol of the new Germany. Here everyone can see the developments in new German architecture, inspired by the works of the older architectural masters.

Historical buildings like the State Opera House on Unter den Linden rise again in their old beauty. A fine new city, Stalinstadt, has been built, where 2,000 workers of the Smelting Combine live with their families; 7,500 new homes for miners have been built and a big building program in the industrial areas has been carried out. A start has been made in reconstructing the completely ruined central areas of Dresden, Leipzig, Magdeburg and Rostock in a style which is national in form and socialist in content.

During the first three years of the Five Year Plan it was planned to clear away 3,500,000 tons of rubble, 5,700,000 tons were actually cleared.

A large number of cultural buildings have been erected, amongst which are many factory club houses.

Over 600 cultural buildings have been erected for the tractor stations and just under a thousand cultural and public health buildings in the villages. For the agricultural production cooperatives over 2,000 new buildings were put up.

EAST GERMAN PRODUCTION

Statistics from the Ulbricht Report

	1936	1950	1953
		(in million marks)	
Basic industries: (Power, mining, metallurgy, chemicals, building materials)	5,761 (100%)	7,728 (134%)	11,538 (200%)
Metal working industries: (Engineering, electrotechnical, fine mechanics & optics)	4,712 (100%)	5,685 (120%)	10,115 (214%)
Light industries: (Wood, textiles, clothing, leather, tobacco, paper & cellulose, printing)	6,232 (100%)	6,468 (103%)	9,148 (147%)
Food and confectionery:	4,402 (100%)	3,455 (78,5%)	6,454 (146%)

Wages

Since the 3rd Party Congress (1950) the wages of the majority of workers in nationally owned and private enterprises were raised twice. During the same period income tax was lowered and prices of consumer goods fell steadily.

Wages are fixed in such a way as to encourage workers:

1. to go to those factories which are most important for the economy;
2. to develop their working skills;
3. to achieve maximum production and to turn out high quality goods.

This is in direct contrast to the policy in West Germany, where maximum profits for the monopolies is the only guiding principle.

Real income

In the German Democratic Republic the increase in real income is achieved principally through price reductions.

Rents, electricity, gas, coal, bread and potatoes are all cheaper in the German Democratic Republic than in West Germany. If the population of the German Democratic Republic had to pay West German prices for the total quantities of electricity, gas, coal, bread and potatoes, which they will consume during the current year, they would have to spend 1,285,000,000 marks more.
(This represents about four weeks average wages per family, ed.)

Between 1950 and 1953 average wages have been raised 24.4%, instead of the 9.9% originally planned. The following table shows the increase in average wages of workers in nationally owned industry:

1950	216 marks
1951	295 marks
1952	312 marks
1953	339 marks

In the third quarter of 1953 the average wages of industrial workers in the German Democratic Republic were 4% higher than in West Germany.

Wages of women and young people are considerably lower in West Germany, where 70% of all women workers get less than 200 marks a month. This is in strong contrast to the position of women in the German Democratic Republic, where the principle "Equal pay for equal work" is practiced. Women with children also get one day off with full pay in the month for their household.

Living standards compared

Taking both rationed and unrationed prices into consideration, food costs about the same in the German Democratic Republic as in West Germany.
Rents are about 20% lower and heating and light charges are about 45% lower than in West Germany, where prices of coal, gas and electricity are 60% higher than before the war. In the German Democratic Republic the removal of the monopolies has resulted in a reduction of 22% on the pre-war prices for public utilities.

Clothing still costs more in the German Democratic Republic, but transport, household appliances, education and entertainment are all cheaper than in West Germany.

Living costs in the German Democratic Republic will without question be steadily reduced under the New Course, while remilitarisation and rearmament place ever-increasing burdens on West German working people.

Agriculture

In the villages today there are countless culture clubs, cottage hospitals, kindergartens and libraries. Electrification of villages is almost complete; between 1945 and 1953

electric light was brought to 95,330 new farms. There are 3,500 new farms still to be supplied, and we believe that this task can be completed this year.

Recruits for the Countryside

Young land workers have splendid prospects today. The Free German Youth movement should pay special attention to interesting sons and daughters of landworkers, members of the peasants' production cooperatives and individual peasants in a farming career. All sorts of opportunities are open to them, in universities and technical schools, to get expert training as agriculturists, zoologists, veterinary surgeons, directors of tractor stations and state-owned farms. Better farming education will greatly speed up the development of our agriculture.

The agricultural production cooperatives and the state-owned farms need tens of thousands of workers. We propose that a call be made from this Party Congress to recruit young people from the factories for work on the land. We call on workers who have some knowledge of farming to volunteer for work on the land, for the purpose of building the basis of socialism in the countryside.

Farm Prices

There is no longer any danger of a depression in farming in the German Democratic Republic. The sale of agricultural products is assured. The government planting and delivery plans assure fixed prices for farm products. What the farmer produces over and above his share of the delivery plan can be sold in the free market. The existence of our workers' and peasants' state makes it possible step by step to overcome the backwardness in the countryside which was an unavoidable consequence of capitalism.

Retail trade

Emphasis must now be laid on the quality of production in the food production and light industries.

The increase in turnover in light industries between 1950 and 1953 was as follows:

Food and confectionery	64%
Drinks, tobacco, sweets etc	49%
Shoes	77%
Textiles	82%
Other light industrial products	36%

In 1950 nationally owned and cooperative retail trade represented 43% of the total turnover; the proportion has increased to 63% in 1954.

Prices

We are of the opinion that a further price reduction should be carried out this year. In order to do this, however, it will be necessary to produce a further thousand million marks' worth of goods over and above the present plan. We are convinced that this task will be accomplished.

With regard to ration cards, we were formerly of the opinion that the rationing system should be brought to an end this year. But there have been objections, especially on the part of the workers, that if rationing were to be brought to an end now, and prices for meat, fats and sugar were adjusted to the level on the West German free market, this would entail considerable increases. (See box comparing East and West German prices.)

We have to bear in mind that 65% of the fresh fish, poultry and game, 84.8% of the butter, 69.6% of the milk, 70% of the sugar and 93.6% of the coal consumed in the German Democratic Republic are still bought at rationed prices. We are therefore of the opinion that it is in the interests of the working people to retain the rationing system for meat, fats, milk, sugar and coal.

Consumption of butter and sugar is greater in the German Democratic Republic than in West Germany and of other foodstuffs about the same.

Science

The development of various kinds of artificial thread, such as Perlon, Orlon and Trelon, has a direct influence on the expansion of our export trade and on the living standard of the working people. As a result of research in microbiology and organic chemistry the supply of medicines such as Penicillin, Nitrozit and so on has been steadily increased.

The sum provided in the budget of 1954 for research was 506.5 million marks as against 189.2 marks in 1951.

This generous support of science, hitherto unparalleled in German history, is only possible because the German Democratic Republic is a workers' and peasants' state.

The big tasks which face the chemical industry under the new course include research in some especially important branches, eg. lignite, organic and inorganic macromolecular chemistry and biochemistry.

Important tasks also face our social science research workers. It is especially important to expose the lies about "living space", racial theories, and lying theories about the "Christian" Western civilisation propagated by the German imperialists as the ideological basis for their war preparations and for the purpose of pushing through Adenauer's EDC policy.

To those scientists in West Germany who are faced with the problem of having to work for dollars against the interests of Germany, we say: Seize the opportunities to work in the German Democratic Republic! Help us to raise German science to new heights of achievement!

Mistakes

After the 2nd Party Conference in 1952 the working people showed great initiative in developing the foundations of socialism, during which, however, some mistakes were made which led to a weakening of the links between the Party and the broad masses of workers and peasants.

We recognised this danger and at the end of May 1953 the decision was taken to inform the working

PRICES — EAST & WEST

Comparison of rationed prices in East Germany and West German prices

	Prices of rationed goods in East Germany	West German prices
1 kilogram (about 2 lbs 3 oz) beef	3.14 marks	4.30 marks
1 kilogram pork	2.86 marks	5.17 marks
1 kilogram ham	4.90 marks	7.71 marks
1 kilogram butter	4.20 marks	6.20 marks
1 kilogram margarine	2.20 marks	1.22/2.07 marks
1 litre (1¾ pints) milk	0.27 marks	0.39 marks
1 egg	0.14 marks	0.27 marks

people openly and honestly about the corrections which had to be made.

The Party decided to go over to a new stage of development, the new course, which centred the work of the Party and the government on a political and economic strengthening of the workers' and peasants' power, above all by means of an improvement in the living conditions of the workers, through increased and improved production of consumer goods, better distribution, particularly in country districts, of foodstuffs and industrial goods, and above all through a rapid development of homebuilding projects for workers.

The policy of the new course, which corrected certain mistakes in our policy, especially in connection with limitations imposed on capitalistic elements and church activities, has undoubtedly strengthened the faith of the working masses in the Party, in the anti-fascist-democratic Bloc and in the government of the German Democratic Republic. The failure of the attempt on June 17th 1953 of British, American and West German imperialist agencies to restore the power of the big monopolies and landowners demonstrated that the Party and our democratic state power are unconquerable.

The fraternal help which the Soviet Union gave us in those days showed the whole world that cooperation and friendship between peace-loving peoples is no empty phrase, but a mighty force with which all imperialist provocations will be defeated.

In the first three years of the Five Year Plan (1951—1955) we have reached our targets.

This tremendous achievement by the working people of the German Democratic Republic has only been possible because of the enormous help which the Soviet Union has given us.

The most valuable aspect of this help was not the supply of goods, as many people think, but the help which the Soviet Union has given in supplying us with the results of her experience in building up socialism and with the results of scientific research.

For example, if the Soviet Union had not provided the blueprints, it would have taken us many years to provide our agriculture with such modern machinery.

Second Five Year Plan

We must now charge the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party with the task of working out, by August 1954, the control figures for the second Five Year Plan (1956 to 1960).

Our basic tasks during the second Five Year Plan will be:

1. A levelling up of the economy through increase in electric power, lignite mining and further developments in the chemical industry.
2. Further increase in production of consumer goods.
3. Further developments in agriculture.
4. Reconstruction of ruined cities and an increased homebuilding program both in industrial cities and in country districts.

In the Second Five Year Plan, the building program must be two and a half times as large as in the first Five Year Plan. This demands increased application of industrial building techniques. Aid will also be given to cooperative and individual home building.

Now that industrial production has reached double the 1936 level, and 80 % is nationally owned, the most important task of the second Five Year Plan is the development of agriculture. More vegetable products, more meat and more fats must be produced, in order to improve the nutrition of the people in town and country. The most important tasks are the development of animal breeding and fodder production.

Agriculture must be further mechanised, and the differences between life in town and country thus made smaller. This means that thousands of engineers, teachers, veterinary surgeons, agrarian experts and so on must go to work in the tractor stations, on the nationally owned farms and in the villages.

By 1960 all heavy field work should be completely mechanised.

Great attention is to be paid to cultural work in country districts. Agricultural production cooperatives and tractor stations should get first preference in acquiring television sets.

Special attention will be paid to public health in the second Five Year Plan. The number of sport and physical training centres is to be greatly increased. Workers' sanatoria are to be increased, factories and cities are to have more polyclinics, and a net of cottage hospitals is to take care of the health of agricultural workers.

Future prospects

The successes achieved in the German Democratic Republic in economic development and in science, technology and culture, and in raising the living standard of the people, will serve to convince the workers in West Germany that it is worth while to fight for peace, for democracy and for the reunification of Germany and that it is high time to drive the militarists out of West Germany, so that peaceful cooperation between the peoples of Europe can be achieved.

* * *

Summing up on April 4th after delegates to the Conference had had five day's discussion, Walter Ulbricht said:

We declare as Germans to all peace-loving people in the world that German imperialism brought two world wars. Now that militarism has been uprooted in the German Democratic Republic and the resistance of the working class and all peace-loving people in West Germany is aroused, all possibilities exist for the prevention of a third world war.

If the West German warmongers were not supported by the American arms millionaires and their West German government supporters, they would quickly be isolated and defeated.

For this reason we call on all peace-loving people in the USA, in Great Britain and in all the countries of Europe:

Let Germany live in peace!

The greatest wish of the German people is that the four powers should conclude a peace treaty with Germany at long last, and to help in the conclusion of an all-European treaty of collective security.

If all peace-loving forces work together, our great aim of securing peace in Europe will be achieved. Then Germany will get a peace treaty, the occupation troops will be withdrawn, an all-German government will be formed which will prepare all-German and really free, democratic elections. And a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany will at last be established.

Nazis Teem in West German Ministry

All leading posts in the West German Ministry for Expellees have been filled with former active nazis, the Social Democratic newspaper "Neue Ruhrzeitung" disclosed on April 6th.

The new brown-shirted staff has been brought into the ministry by Minister Theodor Oberlaender, himself one-time major in the SA, Hitler's storm troops. His assistants include:

Dr Wolfram, personal assistant to the Minister. Former SA officer.

Dr Schicker, press officer. Former SA officer.

Herr Ventzki, representative of the Ministry in West Berlin. Holder of the "Golden Party Badge" of the nazi party, nazi mayor of Lodz in Poland during the German occupation.

Dr Essen, leading Ministry official. Former ministerial counsellor in the nazi „Commissariat for Furthering German Folk-Existence".

Dr Kirschker, personal assistant of the Minister. Former member of nazi party, and mayor of a town in Poland during the German occupation.

Dr Goldschmidt, leading Ministry official, former deputy leader of the nazi-controlled German minority group in Hungary.

Jail for Punishing War Criminals

The district court at Mainz, West Germany has sent a man to prison for 15 months because he helped to punish nazi war criminals.

The accused, Willi Kolter, a local Communist leader, was found guilty of "depriving of liberty" four nazi soldiers who had committed war crimes in the Soviet Union. Kolter had testified for the prosecution in the trial of the war criminals, held soon after the end of the war.

NINETY YEARS AGO

"As a means then to check the existing abuse of power, we echo your call for a fraternity of the peoples. Let there be a gathering together of representatives from France, Italy, Germany, Poland, England and all countries, where there exists a will to cooperate for the good of mankind.

"Let us have our congresses; let us discuss the great questions on which the peace of nations depends; let us bring our reason and moral right to bear with becoming dignity against the cajolery and brute force of the so-called rulers . . ."

From the "Address of English to French Workmen" written by George Odger, Secretary of the London Trades Council. The letter was signed: Thos. Grant Facey (Painter), William Cremer (Joiner), C. Goddard (Bookbinder), John Eglinton (Carpenter), George Odger (Shoemaker). Published in "The Beehive", London, December 5th 1863.

Fascist Gang Smashed

The district court of Frankfurt-Oder, in East Germany, has passed heavy prison sentences on members of a gang of fascists who had hoarded arms and planned to murder People's Police and Soviet soldiers.

Evidence was given that members of the gang were armed with three rifles and a sub-machine gun, as well as more than 1000 rounds of ammunition. The leader of the gang, Helmut Padel, was a former member of the nazi "Hermann Goering" Division, and boasted in court that he was a convinced fascist. Padel and two other gang members were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment; lighter sentences were passed on three other members.

Where to See East German Products

The products of the industry of the German Democratic Republic will be on show at the following exhibitions this year:

May 1st—12th: Paris, "4e Salon International de Techniques Papetières et Graphiques", Grand Palais, Champs-Elysées.

May 19th—30th: Helsinki, German Industry Exhibition 1954.

May 22nd—June 7th: Paris, 43rd International Paris Fair, Porte de Versailles.

June 5th—July 5th: Moscow, "Exhibition on Democratic Germany".

August 28th—September 12th: Stockholm, St. Erik's Fair.

September 5th—15th: Leipzig, International Trade Fair.

Luxury Pocket Books

Everybody in East Germany can afford to start a library, following the publication this month of a new series of cloth-bound pocket books costing only about one-third as much as such books have previously cost.

The first titles to appear in the new series, published by the "Aufbau Verlag", included "The Ugly Duchess" by Lion Feuchtwanger, "Felix Krull" by Thomas Mann, and works by Goethe, Heinrich Mann and Pushkin.

Other titles to be issued this year include "Main Street" by Sinclair Lewis, a volume of short stories by Mark Twain, Hans Fallada's "Little Man What Now?" and many German classics.

The books of the new series cost 2.85 marks — the price of four and a half loaves of bread, and bread is very cheap in East Germany. The size of the editions will be limited only by the amount of paper available: high grade paper for book production is still in short supply.

West German Employers Blacklist Socialists and Communists

The West German Employers' Federation (Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Arbeitgeberverbände) is preparing blacklists of politically active workers, the March number of "Arbeit und Freiheit", organ of the West German Social Democratic Party reported.

"No difference is made in this list between Social Democrats and Communists" the magazine stated. "It is not only in America that Social Democrats are also classed as 'reds' by the reactionaries."

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Germany.**

REMEMBER?

"The (West German) Federal Government further declares its earnest determination to maintain the demilitarisation of the Federal territory and to endeavour by all means in its power to prevent the recreation of armed forces of any kind."

From the "Petersburg Agreement" signed in Bonn on November 22nd 1949 by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the three western High Commissioners. This agreement is still theoretically in force.

British Release Baby-killer

The British authorities in West Germany have released war criminal Ella Schmidt, who was sentenced to death by a British Military Court after the war for her part in the killing of the babies of Polish and Soviet prisoners in Wolfsburg Concentration Camp. The death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

"We Won't Print Call-up Papers" — West German Printers

"No member of the Printing and Paper Trade Union will assist in printing documents for the new Wehrmacht, such as call-up papers and paybooks" stated a resolution passed by the annual conference of this West German union in Frankfurt/Main on March 28th.

PAMPHLET CORNER

Who Controls West German Industry? L. R. D. Publications Ltd, 2 Soho Square, London W. 1. Price 4d.

In sixteen pages the British Labour Research Department has brought together a great mass of information about the nazi industrialists who are rebuilding West German war industry today.

Germany, the Threat and the Peaceful Alternative. By Gordon Schaffer. British Peace Committee, 81 City Road, London E. C. 1. Price 4d.

The facts about Germany after the Berlin Conference, presented attractively and readably.

Both these pamphlets are invaluable for everyone fighting the threat of West German rearmament. Get them, read them, and pass them on.

U.S. Trains Wehrmacht Officers

Hundreds of high officers for the new West German Wehrmacht are already in training in the United States, although the treaties permitting the establishment of this army have not yet been ratified, the Munich weekly newspaper "Deutsche Woche" reported on April 7th.

"478 former Wehrmacht officers have already taken part in these courses" the paper reported. "We learn from circles in close touch with the British Ministry of War that during April 260 more officers will leave for courses in the United States, and that in June and July 3400 non-commissioned officers of the former Wehrmacht will be sent on such courses."

"GREATER GERMANY" RALLY IN NUREMBERG

Militarists in West Germany are planning a great get-together of former members of the fascist tank corps "Greater Germany" in Nuremberg at Whitsun.

"Come and meet your old comrades once again" say the invitations which have been prepared. Nuremberg was the city in which Hitler always staged the huge rallies of the nazi party.

"Hurra! Barracks Bread is Here Again!"

A militaristic bread wrapping paper used by a baker at Herne in the British Zone of West Germany.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

This week I have been doing some work in the garden when I get home from work. I know that this news will surprise various relatives who remember the repugnance with which I regarded weeding or lawn-mowing many years ago, but it is true.

As apartment house dwellers, with a flat right in the centre of Berlin, we would not normally have a garden, but the apartment lies in a quiet backwater with trees and grass between the houses, and each tenant has a little plot of garden.

Only Flowers

The plot does not appear to have been cultivated since the immediate post-war years, when there was real hunger in Germany, and every piece of ground was used to plant potatoes. We are planting lots of flowers, for the days of food shortage are long past, and we want to make a small personal contribution to brightening up the centre of Berlin, which is still grim enough, scarred as it is by the ruins of the war.

What has interested me has been to discover how many gardeners there are in Berlin.

In every seedsman's shop these days there are crowds of people, old and young, buying anything from a small packet of nasturtium seed to three dozen assorted rose bushes. There are lots of special shops to serve them, shops which I had not really noticed before, where you can buy watering cans and garden hose, pruning knives and big bags of fertiliser.

Having purchased a fine selection of all the necessary, and probably many of the unnecessary, tools, we now just have to wait and see whether anything will come up, what with the poor city soil on one hand, and the voracious thrushes and sparrows who crowd the garden on the other.

Still Rationed

On another page of this issue we report that the East German authorities have decided against abolishing the food rationing system this year, as was originally planned and as we reported last year. The reason is quite simply that removal of rationing at present would inevitably entail a rise in the price of basic foodstuffs, at present well below world prices, and this would affect the lowest income groups adversely.

Everybody here would be glad to get rid of the annoying coupon clipping which rationing entails whenever you want to buy meat, sugar, butter or margarine, the goods which are still rationed. (Of course all these goods are freely available off the ration, but at much higher prices.)

I was charmed to see the way in which the Honourable Terence Prittie, West German Correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" handled the news on March 31st:

"One bitter pill served up by Herr Ulbricht today was that food rationing would not be abolished this year, as promised. Much was made of this promise last year, especially by scurrilous propaganda sheets such as that produced by Mr. John Peet . . ."

I am charmed when the Hon. Terence calls me scurrilous, for the simple reason that his "facts" are almost always wrong. Cases have been given very frequently in GERMAN REPORT in the past: I would draw the attention of anyone interested to GERMAN REPORT dated May 8th 1953, in which it was clearly shown that reports in the "Manchester Guardian" signed by the Bonn Correspondent, purporting to quote from East German newspapers, were in fact forgeries.

P. S. The Honourable Terence Prittie is really his name. I did not invent it. "Honourable" is a title, not a judgement of quality.

Sieg Heil

In March 1954, West German Chancellor Adenauer made a state journey to Greece and Turkey. Here are a few extracts from the report of his trip, given in the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel", Hamburg, on March 31st:

"When Konrad Adenauer visited the War Academy in Ankara . . . the German hearts beat higher. The leading Turk who had spent three years in Germany at the (nazi) Reichs Sport School rose and shouted: 'We greet the German Federal Chancellor with a threefold SIEG HEIL' (Nazi wartime slogan meaning 'Hail Victory'). The journalists agreed not to report the incident.

"Adenauer's assistant Herr Kilb, former Major, made some criticisms of the manoeuvre tactics of the Turks, quoting from his experiences on the Russian front. At the big receptions Kilb wore the (nazi) Infantry Storm Attack Medal in Silver . . .

"Felix von Eckardt, head of the Federal Press and Information Office described the trip as a sort of 'Kraft durch Freude' trip ('Strength through Joy', a nazi holiday organisation)."

Puzzle Corner

In an old book I have found some blank verses which could well be entitled "Thoughts of a Western Diplomat on the Eve of the Geneva Conference". Here they are:

"It is very wrong of them
To defend themselves.
They should not
Have guns or ammunition.
We cannot understand
What they are fighting for.
There are no rich men
Or private properties.
We are very anxious
To come to a compromise,
But they must give way
On every point."

These lines were written thirty-five years ago by a prominent English author, still alive. A fine album of photos of bombed out Dresden to the first reader who can identify him.

Book Offer

Most of the readers of GERMAN REPORT have by this time read, and probably been shocked by, the book "West Germany Prepares War of Revenge" which we sent to all postal subscribers.

We still have some supplies available, and we should be glad to supply them to any groups who are planning campaigns or conferences against West German rearmament.

Tell us what you want the books for, and we shall try to supply a suitable number as long as supplies last.

Incidentally, any readers of GERMAN REPORT who have not seen a copy should let me have their names and addresses, and I shall see to it that a copy is immediately sent off.

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